



West Lake Update

August 18, 2022

Introduction of New Division Director; Operable Unit 2 Update

Introducing the New Director of the Superfund and Emergency Management Division



Bob Jurgens has been selected as the new Director of the Superfund and Emergency Management Division and started with EPA on August 1, 2022. Bob brings a wealth of experience and knowledge from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), with

over 24 years of remedial clean up experience, which includes serving as the Director of Environmental Remediation.

Bob has outstanding leadership qualifications for this position. He has served on KDHE's senior leadership team as the Deputy Commander for Environmental Emergency Response. He has overseen multiple environmental programs at KDHE including the Emergency Spill Response, Superfund - National Priority List (NPL), and other KDHE-led cleanup programs such as, Site Assessment, Dry Cleaner Remediation, Orphan Sites, State Cooperative, Voluntary Cleanup, Brownfields, Surface Mining and Federal Facilities.

Bob is an alumnus of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree at the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, specializing in groundwater hydrology. He and his wife, Teresa reside in Topeka, Kansas, where he is active in his church, as well as enjoying the outdoors while hiking, golfing and mountain biking. Bob and Teresa have two adult children: daughter Ashley (accountant in Kansas City) and son, Cameron (mechanical engineer in Tulsa, OK).

Operable Unit 2 Update - Landfill Gas Monitoring

West Lake Landfill OU-2 is currently in the Remedial Design (RD) phase. As part of the RD, and in accordance with State of Missouri landfill regulations, Bridgeton Landfill, LLC (Respondent) developed a Landfill Gas Monitoring Plan to determine if there is subsurface landfill gas migrating off-site from the Inactive Sanitary Landfill (ISL) portion of OU-2.

Landfill gas is a natural byproduct of organic material decomposition in landfills and is composed of roughly 50 percent methane, 50 percent carbon dioxide, and a small amount of non-methane organic compounds. Generally, more recently buried waste (i.e., waste buried less than 10 years) produces more landfill gas than older waste (buried more than 10 years), with peak gas production usually occurring from 5 to 7 years after the waste is buried. Waste in the ISL is more than 30 years old.

As landfill gas is produced during decomposition it begins to move, migrating through available spaces in the waste and soils along the path of least resistance. In accordance with the approved plan, the Respondent installed a subsurface landfill gas monitoring network consisting of 6 gas monitoring wells around the western and southwestern perimeter of the ISL to evaluate potential migration. One landfill gas monitoring well (BRISL004) has consistently exhibited elevated methane readings since installation, which requires weekly sampling, and EPA has been working with the Respondent on developing a Corrective Action Plan to address the methane in this well.

During routine quarterly sampling on July 5, 2022, elevated methane readings were detected at a depth of 5 to 25 feet below ground surface in three additional landfill gas monitoring wells (BRISL001, BRISL002, BRISL003). There have been no elevated methane readings detected at ground surface level throughout sampling operations. While these three wells have not previously exhibited elevated methane, it is common for gas concentrations to fluctuate based on a number

of variables, such as temperature, barometric pressure, or precipitation. In accordance with the approved plans, monitoring frequency has been increased to a weekly basis at these wells.

In response to the elevated levels in the three additional wells, the Respondent completed the appropriate actions required under the approved plan. The Respondent made notifications to property owners within 1,000 feet of the impacted wells. As part of these notifications, the Respondent offered to survey buildings and install alarms; methane was not detected during walkthrough surveys conducted at six of the buildings. If business or property owner within Earth City did not receive a notification, then they are located beyond 1,000 feet and no action is needed.

These wells are designed to monitor landfill gas, not radionuclides, below the ground surface at the western edge of the Inactive Sanitary Landfill (ISL). Because radiologically impacted material (RIM) has been identified within portions of the ISL, soil samples were collected during the installation of the wells and analyzed for radionuclides. RIM was not identified in soils from any of these wells.

The air surrounding the site continues to be monitored at 13 monitoring stations, one of which is located near the northern most gas well. This air monitoring program includes analysis of radon and other radionuclides to assess the potential for releases from the site. The EPA will continue to evaluate the air data and will provide the results when EPA has completed the review.

A revised Corrective Action Plan will be developed to incorporate the four wells with methane exceedances and is due to EPA on August 19th. The Corrective Action Plan will detail the measures that will be taken to further assess the elevated readings, including additional testing to determine what, if any, actions need to be taken to address the elevated methane. Once EPA has completed its review of the Corrective Action Plan it will be shared publicly on the Site Profile Page. The approved monitoring plan is currently available on the Site Profile Page: <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/07/30490031.pdf>

For additional information regarding the site please contact EPA Region 7 at 314-296-8182.

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